

VZCZCXR09207

PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH

DE RUEHKO #3325 3400851

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9235

RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC

RHEFHLC/HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC

INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 1281

RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 9277

RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 3641

RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 5072

RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 1851

RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS

RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 3447

UNCLAS TOKYO 003325

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/J AND OES/ENRC - MARK JOHNSEN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: SENV ETRD EAGR BTIO PREL JA

SUBJECT: Demarche on Implementation of Amended Lacey Act

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED, PLEASE PROTECT ACCORDINGLY

REF: STATE 126654

¶1. (U) Environmental Officer, Senior Animal and Plant Health Officer, and Agricultural Scientist met with Ministry of Foreign Affairs' (MOFA) Second North America Division Deputy Director Tsuyoshi Uchida, Global Environment Division's Toshihisa Kato, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' (MAFF) International Economic Affairs Division Assistant Director Tsuyoshi Iwata, Export Promotion Office Assistant Director Junsuke Imai, and Wood Products Trade Office Assistant Director Rumiko Yamanouchi December 4 to deliver Reftel points.

¶2. (U) The MAFF officials said it will be difficult to identify the country of origin for wood products in the absence of domestic labeling requirements, especially for small companies that do not source their wood directly. Currently, Japan has no such labeling requirements. Imai hoped there would be an exemption for small quantities such as the personal effects of Japanese moving to the U.S. The MAFF officials indicated they would like to participate in the public comment process for the revised Lacey Act implementing rules and said they look forward to further clarification of the implementing rules.

¶3. (SBU) In addition, the MAFF officials said Japanese paper manufacturing companies had contacted them to ask the Embassy to brief their representatives. The paper companies are concerned about possible negative impacts on their business from the changes to the Lacey Act. APHIS Officer said he would be happy to hold a briefing but believed it would be more useful if it took place after the additional implementing regulations have been published.

SCHIEFFER